AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-2. (Cancelled).

3. (**Previously Presented**) A cement composition

comprising 100 parts by weight of a cement and

0.05 to 10 parts by weight of calcium hydroxide particles having an average particle diameter of 2.5 μm or less as a cement setting accelerator for shortening the initial and final setting times of said cement composition.

4. (**Previously Presented**) A process for manufacturing a cement composition comprising adding a water slurry of calcium hydroxide particles having an average particle diameter of 2.5 μm or less as a cement setting accelerator for shortening the initial and final setting times of said cement composition to a cement.

5. (**Cancelled**).

6. (**Previously Presented**) The cement composition according to claim 3, wherein said calcium hydroxide particles as said cement setting accelerator are in the form of a slurry.

7. (**Previously Presented**) The cement composition according to claim 3, wherein said calcium hydroxide particles have an average particle diameter of 2 μm or less.

8. (**Previously Presented**) The cement composition according to claim 3, wherein said calcium hydroxide particles have an average particle diameter of 1 μm or less.

9. (**Previously Presented**) The cement composition according to claim 3, wherein 0.1 to 6 parts of weight of said calcium hydroxide particles are present.

10. (**Previously Presented**) The cement composition according to claim 3, further comprising

5 parts by weight or less of calcium aluminate based upon 100 parts by weight of said cement.

11. (**Previously Presented**) The process according to claim 4, wherein said calcium hydroxide particles have an average particle diameter of 2 μm or less.

12. (**Previously Presented**) The process according to claim 4, wherein said calcium hydroxide particles have an average particle diameter of 1 μm or less.

13. (**Previously Presented**) The process according to claim 4, wherein 0.05 to 10 parts by weight of calcium hydroxide particles are added to 100 parts by weight of said cement.

14. (**Previously Presented**) The process according to claim 4, wherein 0.1 to 6 parts by weight of calcium hydroxide particles are added to 100 parts by weight of said cement.

15. **(Previously Presented)** The process according to claim 13, wherein 5 parts by weight or less of calcium aluminate based upon 100 parts by weight is further added to said 100 parts by weight of cement.

16. **(Cancelled)**

17. **(Previously Presented)** The cement composition according to claim 3, wherein said calcium hydroxide particles have an average particle diameter of 1.3 μm or less.

18. **(Cancelled)**

19. **(Previously Presented)** The process according to claim 4, wherein said calcium hydroxide particles have an average particle diameter of 1.3 μm or less.

20. **(New)** A cement composition

comprising 100 parts by weight of a cement and

a slurry consisting essentially of 0.05 to 10 parts by weight of calcium hydroxide particles having an average particle diameter of 2.5 μm or less as a cement setting accelerator for shortening the initial and final setting times of said cement composition.